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PATENT**MS127735.02/MSFTP263USA****CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being faxed to 703-872-9306 on the date shown below to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Date: 7-19-04

Himanshu S. Amin

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JUL 19 2004

OFFICIAL**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re patent application of:

Applicant: Eric J. Horvitz

Examiner: Unknown

Serial No: 10/620,116

Art Unit: Unknown

Filing Date: July 15, 2003

Title: METHODS FOR ROUTING ITEMS FOR COMMUNICATIONS BASED
ON A MEASURE OF CRITICALITY

**Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Entry of this preliminary amendment is respectfully requested prior to performing substantive examination of the above-identified patent application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge a \$270.00 fee for additional claims to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 [Ref. No. MSFTP263USA].